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Vol. 21, No. 13/December 18, 1998

Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

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Vol. 21 N.13
12/18/98

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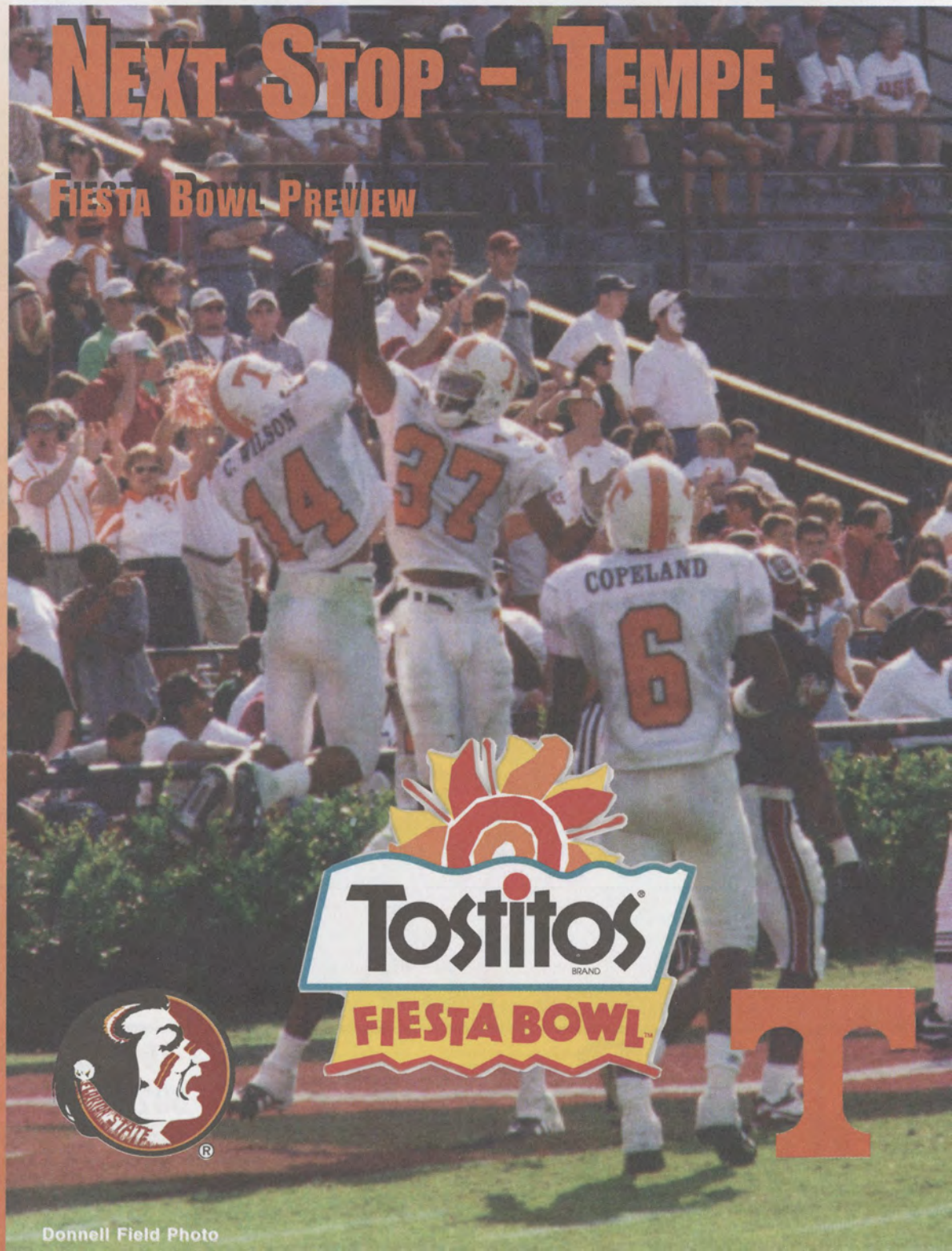
FIESTA BOWL PREVIEW



Donnell Field Photo

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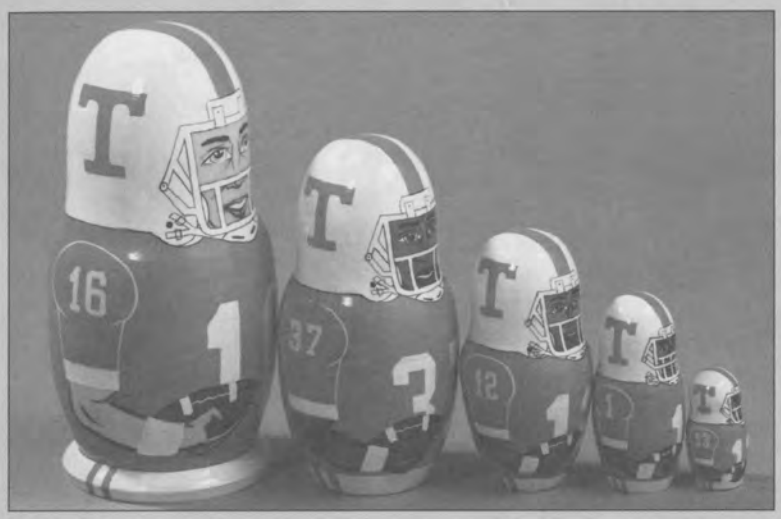

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Smokey's Tale
Volunteers
Magazine

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CHAMPS Program

Senior Reflection

Yesterday I started thinking about my first four years as a student-athlete, and I have pretty much experienced it all. I have been on a tennis team that started my freshman year in the top 15, dropped out of the top 50 by my junior year, and then returned to the top 15.

I have clinched a few deciding matches for us and also lost a couple along the way. I had to redshirt with a career-threatening back injury, and I have played for two different head coaches. I have experienced many highs and lows, but one thing's for sure, being a Vol was the best choice of my life.

Tennessee offers its student-athletes the best of both worlds. As athletes, we practice and compete in some of the best facilities in the country. As students, we are given a great opportunity to succeed. Student Life offers tutors in any subject, while supplying computers, academic advisors, career development leaders, and a writing center for help on papers.

Another advantage we have at UT is the community support. Tennessee fans love their sports, from football to tennis. You will always see some bright orange in the stands.

My advice to the incoming freshmen is to enjoy your time here and realize the opportunities we have, both athletically and academically.

Get to know and support athletes from other sports. Some of my best times at Tennessee have been watching my friends compete in their sports. Competition is the same in all sports which makes every event, match and game fun to watch.

Likewise, it is important to take advantage of the opportunities Student Life offers us to stay ahead in school. The time demand on athletes can be overwhelming, and Student Life helps us manage our time.

Finally, we as athletes need to give back to the community, because without their support, we would not have the opportunities we are given at UT.

I have pretty much experienced it all in my time at Tennessee. I remember the highs and try to forget the lows, but one thing is true: I would not change a thing! I love wearing the Orange and White and trying to help my team win.

— Chad Copenhaver '99
Men's Tennis Team

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A Look at the Vols...

FIRST UNDEFEATED SEASON SINCE 1956

Through one cliffhanger after another, the 1998 Tennessee Vols turned the expression "rising to the occasion" into an art form.

From the previous year, they had lost their most legendary quarterback, their leading pass receiver and their All-America linebacker. Without them, said the pundits, Tennessee would be a so-so team, relegated to struggling for recognition beyond the borders of the Southeastern Conference.

But to a man the Vols and their coaches thought differently, quietly disputing the notion that the new season would bring a sharp decline in the football program's stature. As one of the players expressed it, "Nobody expected anything from us. They just didn't know how hungry we were."

Head Coach Phillip Fulmer, having sensed the squad's extraordinary determination, vowed to make the most of his players' potential. "We asked them to listen to their coaches, and they responded the way we hoped they would," he said. The rest isn't quite history yet, because there is one huge game to go, but so far the Vols have experienced a dream season.

Their 12-0 regular season record, marking the first time Tennessee has gone unbeaten since 1956, is unmatched numerically in UT annals. Before 1998, only the 1938 team managed the feat of going through a 10-game season unbeaten and then adding a bowl victory to finish 11-0.

The Vols advanced to first place in the Associated Press poll Nov. 8 and remained atop the writers' and broadcasters' balloting for the last three weeks of the regular season with victories over Arkansas, Kentucky and Vanderbilt. They maintained that position and added first place in the coaches poll when they fought from behind to overcome Mississippi State in the Southeastern Conference championship game at Atlanta on Dec. 5.

Now the newly famed initials BCS give the Vols a chance to compete for something no one dared imagine back in September -- the 1998 national title. As the top-ranked team in the Bowl Championship Series, UT will meet Florida State Jan. 4 in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl at Tempe, Ariz.

Another monumental achievement is within the Volunteers' sights. A win in their final game would enable Tennessee to tie Florida for the highest four-year victory total in SEC history.

All these delightful treats—an undefeated season, an SEC crown, a chance for a national championship— were hardly the sort of rewards anticipated when the Vols opened the season at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, N.Y., on the first Saturday of September.

An offensively balanced and experienced Syracuse team and a youthful Tennessee squad looking for answers to numerous questions waged a savage battle that wasn't settled until Jeff Hall lodged a chip-shot 27-yard field goal as time expired. The Vols, hit hard by graduation, knew they would be in for a tough opener against a veteran Syracuse team that featured multi-talented quarterback Donovan McNabb. But it was Tennessee's quarterback, Tee Martin, who in his first start directed the trailing Vols downfield in the final minutes to set Hall up for the field goal that pulled out a 34-33 victory. Jamal Lewis netted 140 yards on 20 carries over the Carrier Dome's artificial turf. Tennessee's linebackers were devastating, Al Wilson accounting for 13 tackles with two big plays and Raynoch Thompson adding 11 hits.

The renewal of the Florida series after an open date proved no less gripping a drama than the Syracuse game. Again it was Jeff Hall's unerring toe that made the difference, this one requiring overtime. The home opener for the Vols attracted a record crowd, 107,653, none of whom was spotted leaving the premises until Florida's placekicker missed his attempt to match Hall's three pointer in the extra stanza. Hall's 41-yarder provided the margin in Tennessee's 20-17

Tee Martin took over the controls of a potent Vol offense, leading the Vols to a 12-0 record. The Tennessee offense averaged 34 points per contest, as Martin set three NCAA records. Photo by Tennessee Sports Photography.

cliffhanger victory, after which Jeff went home, devoured a bowl of Wheaties and went to bed while the rest of the state celebrated into the night. The game wouldn't have reached overtime, it's reasonable to believe, without a masterful performance by Vol linebacker Al Wilson, who three times stripped the ball away from Florida runners, a feat almost beyond comprehension. Al didn't just bang into them; he pulled the ball out of their arms. UT's defense stymied the Gators on the ground, inflicting a minus 13 yards net for Florida's efforts to tote the ball overland.

In contrast to the first two games, nail-biters that went wire to wire in suspense, Tennessee established itself early against Houston and sailed to a 42-7 victory over the visiting Cougars. In addition to enabling fans to breathe easy for a change, the contest provided the added joy of allowing Tee Martin to bolster his credentials as a passer. The junior quarterback, who had been mostly off target in the first two victories, riddled Houston for 15 completions on 20 throws. Tee's work was in keeping with a sharp performance by the offense, which rang up a total of 589 yards for a nifty 9.3-yard average per play. Houston found orange obstacles every which way they went on the ground, denting the Vols for only 39 yards on 31 carries.

The Vols shot out to a storybook beginning against Auburn, with everything going right in the opening minutes. From that point, however, they had to hold on for dear life in posting a 17-9 victory at Jordan-Hare Stadium. Auburn advanced smartly downfield after the opening kickoff, bent on scoring and taking an early lead. But what to the Tigers' wondering eyes should appear but defensive end Shaun Ellis coming up

PROBABLE ORDER OF SUBSTITUTION -- Fiesta Bowl

OFFENSE

TE:	96	**John Finlayson (Fr., 6-4, 270)**
	82	Eric Diogu (Jr., 6-3, 245)
	84	Neil Johnson (So., 6-4, 250)
LT:	67	**Chad Clifton (Jr., 6-6, 315)**
	77	Josh Tucker (Jr., 6-4, 295)
LG:	75	**Mercedes Hamilton (Sr., 6-3, 295)**
	53	Toby Champion (So., 6-4, 295)
C:	68	**Spencer Riley (Jr., 6-3, 295)**
	54	Diron Robinson (Sr., 6-3, 295)
RG:	52	**Cosey Coleman (So., 6-5, 315)**
	74	Bernard Gooden (So., 6-3, 310)
RT:	72	**Jarvis Reado (Sr., 6-5, 300)**
	77	Josh Tucker (Jr., 6-4, 295)
	73	Will Ofenheusle (Fr., 6-8, 305)
WR:	37	**Peerless Price (Sr., 6-0, 183)**
	87	David Martin (So., 6-4, 210)
	11	Bobby Graham (Fr., 6-0, 185)
	86	Kevin Taylor (Fr., 5-10, 175)
WR:	6	**Jeremaine Copeland (Sr., 6-2, 200)**
	14	Cedrick Wilson (So., 5-10, 165)
	80	Eric Parker (Fr., 6-0, 163)
QB:	17	**Tee Martin (Jr., 6-3, 215)**
	5	Burney Veazey (Fr., 6-2, 195)
	8	Joey Mathews (Fr., 6-3, 210)
TB:	20	**Travis Henry (So., 5-11, 212)**
	25	Travis Stephens (So., 5-9, 185)
FB:	24	**Shawn Bryson (Sr., 6-1, 220)**
	45	Will Bartholomew (Fr., 6-0, 220)
	21	Phillip Crosby (Jr., 6-1, 243)

RETURN SPECIALISTS

PR:	6	**Jeremaine Copeland (Sr., 6-2, 200)**
	7	Deon Grant (So., 6-3, 190)
KOR:	37	**Peerless Price (Sr., 6-0, 183)**
	14	Cedrick Wilson (So., 5-10, 165)

DEFENSE

LE:	93	**Shaun Ellis (Jr., 6-4, 260)**
	99	DeAngelo Lloyd (So., 6-5, 235)
	56	Bernard Jackson (Fr., 6-4, 245)
LT:	92	**Jeff Coleman (Sr., 6-4, 242)**
	40	Billy Ratliff (Jr., 6-3, 275)
	60	Matt Goodin (Sr., 6-0, 255)
	95	Fred Weary (Fr., 6-4, 281) (injured)
RT:	58	**Darwin Walker (Jr., 6-3, 281)**
	55	Ron Green (Sr., 6-1, 275)
	94	Ed Butler (Fr., 6-3, 230)
RE:	22	**Corey Terry (Sr., 6-3, 250)**
	90	Will Overstreet (Fr., 6-4, 250)
	38	Roger Alexander (Jr., 6-3, 220)
LLB:	42	**Eric Westmoreland (So., 6-0, 210)**
	28	Dominique Stevenson (So., 6-0, 205)
	39	Andre James (Fr., 6-2, 210)
MLB:	27	**Al Wilson (Sr., 6-0, 226)**
	41	Chris Ramseur (So., 5-10, 211)
	44	Austin Kemp (So., 6-2, 220)
RLB:	46	**Raynoch Thompson (Jr., 6-3, 217)**
	59	Judd Granzow (So., 6-4, 235)
	44	Austin Kemp (So., 6-2, 220)
LCB:	34	**Steve Johnson (Sr., 5-11, 175)**
	30	Andre Lott (So., 5-11, 185)
	36	Maurice Fitzgerald (Fr., 5-9, 180)
	12	Teddy Gaines (Fr., 6-0, 160)
RCB:	23	**Dwayne Goodrich (Jr., 6-0, 185)**
	18	Gerald Griffin (Jr., 6-1, 182)
	3	Willie Miles (Fr., 6-0, 170)
SS:	2	**Fred White (Jr., 5-11, 185)**
	33	Derrick Edmonds (Jr., 5-10, 185)
FS:	7	**Deon Grant (So., 6-3, 190)**
	13	Tad Golden (Fr., 6-1, 185)
	29	Mikki Allen (Jr., 6-0, 175)

PUNTERS / KICKERS

P:	43	**David Leaverton (So., 6-4, 210)**
	48	Bill Hurst (Jr., 5-11, 170)
PK:	4	**Jeff Hall (Sr., 6-0, 182)**
	1	Robert Loudermilk (Jr., 6-2, 164)
DS:	51	**Kevin Gregory (Jr., 6-4, 270)**
H:	10	**Benson Scott (Sr., 6-0, 193)**

with an interception and lumbering 90 yards for a Tennessee touchdown. On UT's next offensive play, Jamal Lewis scooted 67 yards for a touchdown that made it 14-0 with less than five minutes gone. From that juncture, however, all the scoring came on field goals. A four-play goal line stand from the six-inch line was a highlight for the Vols in a game that cast plenty of glory on both defenses.

With Jamal Lewis' knee injury in the Auburn game sidelining the brilliant tailback for the season, the Vols faced unbeaten Georgia on the road with their running game in the hands of a pair of sophomores who shared the same first name. Travis Stephens and Travis Henry accounted for 160 yards between them, keeping the rushing attack at a high level in a 22-3 win over the Bulldogs. Jeff Hall's three field goals and short touchdown passes by Tee Martin to Peerless Price and Cedrick Wilson accounted for Tennessee's scoring. Georgia product Deon Grant, the Vols' free safety, tormented fans of his home-state university by racking up six tackles, an interception and a recovered fumble.

Hard to come by as always, the victory over Alabama was relished by Vol fans who prize each morsel of triumph in Dixie's most honored collegiate rivalry. UT's fourth straight win over the Crimson Tide, by a 35-18 tally, was nailed down when Travis Henry, who gained 113 yards for the day, scored twice on short bursts in the fourth quarter. The backbreaker for the upset-minded visitors came in the third period immediately after they had cut the deficit to three points. Peerless Price, who had been seldom noticed early in the season while UT tried to get its passing game untracked, celebrated his renewed role as kick returner by hauling one 100 yards. That little jewel by the aptly named Ohio native allowed the third largest crowd in stadium history to watch the rest of the game in a more relaxed state than had been the case when the count was 14-11.

Defensive captain Al Wilson made first team All-SEC and first team All-America at his middle linebacker position despite injuries which limited his play. Photo by Donnell Field.

Tee Martin threw his first pass, completed it, must have liked the way it felt and so proceeded to toss 22 more before one plopped to the ground uncaught. The victim of Martin's virtuoso performance was South Carolina, which wound up on the wrong end of the 49-14 score at its own Williams-Brice Stadium. One-by-one the records tumbled—UT, SEC, NCAA. And by the time the game ended Martin's list of fallen standards included NCAA marks for most consecutive completions in one game (23) and most consecutive over a two-game span (24). With Martin throwing bullseyes, somebody had to be on the receiving end, and that someone most often was Peerless Price, who had 10 catches for 165 yards. South Carolina's fourth-period touchdown ended a string of 16 scoreless quarters chalked up by the Vol defense.

Fairly routine it was, the 37-13 decision over UAB, but it certainly produced earthquake-size reverberations. In light of Ohio State's upset loss to Michigan State that night, the win over the Blazers pushed Tennessee to the top spot in the polls and to first place in the BCS standings. Tee Martin maintained a hot hand, his 18-for-25 completions providing 274 yards and a touchdown. Travis Henry sparked the ground attack, battering his way through UAB defenders for 104 yards. Defensively, the starting linebackers combined for a host of tackles, 11 by Al Wilson, 10 by Raynoch Thompson and eight by Eric Westmoreland. A sold-out Homecoming gathering watched the Vols close out their non-conference activity 3-0 before tackling four straight SEC opponents.

Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum in Gatlinburg reportedly turned down the game ball, claiming it had to draw the line somewhere. But the Vols by some feat of magic managed a 28-24 victory over Arkansas in a battle of top 10 inhabitants. The Razorbacks were prepared to walk off the rain-soaked Neyland Stadium grass with an upset win after leading since early in the first quarter.

A fumble by their quarterback near midfield with 1:43 left, however, gave UT one more shot. Five Travis Henry carries later, the ball broke the plane of the Razorbacks' goal line, and Tennessee had survived a serious threat to its recently acquired No. 1 status. Henry became an instant hero statewide, not only for his game-winning touchdown, but for the 197 yards he racked up in 32 power-laden carries. Tennessee's comeback was of Gargantuan proportions, after having faced a 21-3 deficit earlier.

Seeking to avoid a similar scare in their next outing, the Vols wasted little time in taking command of the traditional clash with Kentucky, thereby clinching the SEC Eastern Division title. With both offense and defense hitting on all cylinders, the homestanding Orangemen raced to a 14-7 first-quarter lead and expanded it to 38-7 at intermission en route to a 59-21 victory. The Blue's All-America quarterback, Tim Couch, who had treated the Vol defense rudely in 1997, was less successful this time, sustaining six sacks, two of them inflicted by rookie end Will Overstreet. Tennessee's own signal-caller, Tee Martin, put the ball up 20 times and completed 13, including memorable gems by Peerless Price and Cedrick Wilson. Jeff Hall's four-year stint as a placekicker found a prominent spot in the record book when his 15-point contribution made him the SEC's all-time scoring leader.

Applying one of the cardinal rules of football—making the most of turnovers—Tennessee rolled over Vanderbilt, 41-0, to bring the undefeated season to a close at Nashville. Vol defenders were at their predatory best by hauling in four interceptions and scooping up two fumbles in the conquest of their longtime in-state rival. Deon Grant, Fred White, Dwyane Goodrich and Derrick Edmonds each accounted for an interception. Chris Ramseur and Darwin Walker picked up Vandy fumbles, with Ramseur experiencing the added pleasure of returning his recovery 12 yards for a touchdown. Peerless Price ignited Tennessee's rout by catching a second-quarter toss from Tee Martin, then breaking away from three Commodore defenders to convert the short pass into a 67-yard touchdown.

Arriving at the SEC championship game, the Vols were in no frame of mind to squander their undefeated season at the hands of Western Division title-holder Mississippi State. Not even when the Bulldogs grabbed a 14-10 lead midway through the fourth period on a dazzling punt return. Time was running out on the Vols, but here their resourcefulness under pressure once more surfaced.

Tee Martin, who hadn't been his usual self as far as pass efficiency was concerned through the first three quarters, went to work masterfully as crunch time approached. First he fired a bomb to Peerless Price for the 41-yard go-ahead score. Then on the first play following a State fumble Martin found Cedrick Wilson running through the end zone all alone for the clinching touchdown.

The 24-14 victory, combined with losses by previously undefeated UCLA and Kansas State, left the Vols undisputed leaders in both polls heading into the bowl season.

—Haywood Harris

TEAM STATISTICS	TENN	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	**234**	**203**
By Rushing	121	81
By Passing	94	105
By Penalty	19	17
NET YARDS RUSHING	**2536**	**1127**
Attempts	517	420
Gained	2825	1634
Lost	289	507
Average Per Game	211.3	93.9
Yards Per Rush	4.9	2.7
Longest Rush	67	49
NET YARDS PASSING	**2250**	**2509**
Attempts	275	406
Completed	157	213
Percent Completed	57.1	52.5
Had Intercepted	7	16
Average Per Game	187.5	209.1
Longest Pass	71	70
TOTAL OFFENSE	**4786**	**3636**
Total Plays	792	826
Average Per Game	398.8	303.0
PUNTS	**57**	**68**
Punting Yardage	2201	2761
Average Per Punt	38.6	40.6
Net Punt Average	31.9	37.5
Had Blocked	1	0
PUNT RETURNS	**37**	**34**
Return Yardage	208	383
Average Per Return	5.6	11.3
Longest Punt Return	22	83
KICKOFF RETURNS	**34**	**50**
Return Yardage	779	969
Average Per Return	22.9	19.4
Longest KO Return	100	76
TURNOVERS	**17**	**33**
Fumbles	23	33
Fumbles Lost	10	17
Interceptions By	16	7
Interception Return Yards	242	80
Longest Int. Return	90	70
PENALTIES	**72**	**82**
Yards Penalized	597	689
3RD DN CONVERSIONS	**62/158**	**64/188**
Percentage	39.2	34.0
4TH DN CONVERSIONS	**8/11**	**8/20**
Percentage	72.7	40.0
TIME OF POSSESSION	**29:30**	**30:30**

POINTS SCORED	408	173
Touchdowns	50	19
By Rushing	27	5
By Passing	20	12
By Returns	2	2
By Fumble Return	1	0
By Blocked Field Goal	0	0
Extra Points (Kicks)	47/47	16/16
Extra Points (Pass)	1/1	1/1
Extra Points (Run)	0/2	1/2
Extra Points (Defense)	0/0	0/0
Field Goals	19/24	13/25
Safety	1	0

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

Hall 104 (19/24 FG, 47/47 PAT); Price 66 (11 TD); Henry 42 (7 TD); T. Martin 42 (7 TD); C. Wilson 36 (6 TD); Bryson 32 (5 TD 1 2-pt); Lewis 24 (4 TD); Stephens 24 (4 TD); Crosby 12 (2 TD); Copeland 6 (1 TD); Ellis 6 (1 TD); Finlayson 6 (1 TD); Ramseur 6 (1 TD); Team 2 (safety)

SCORING BY QUARTER

	1st	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*OT*	*Total*	*Avg*
Tennessee	82	126	106	91	3	408	34.0
Opponents	30	37	41	65	0	173	14.4

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

	Att	*Gain*	*Lost*	*Net*	*Avg*	*TD*	*LP*
Henry	176	991	21	970	5.5	7	36 VU
Lewis	73	518	21	497	6.8	3	67 AUB
Stephens	107	498	21	477	4.5	4	30 UH
T. Martin	103	483	196	287	2.8	7	55 SYR
Bryson	21	201	1	200	9.5	4	58 UK
Crosby	16	53	0	53	3.3	2	20 UH
Bartholomew	7	34	0	34	4.9	0	14 SC
Price	3	25	0	25	8.3	0	12 UAB
T. Graham	2	1	4	-3	-1.5	0	1 UK
Veazey	9	21	25	-4	-0.4	0	15 SC
Totals	**517**	**2825**	**289**	**2536**	**4.9**	**27**	**67 AUB**
Opponent	*420*	*1634*	*507*	*1127*	*2.7*	*5*	*49 AUB*

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

	Att	Cmp	Pct	Int	Sk	Yds	TD	LP
T. Martin	267	153	57.3	6	22	2164	19	71SC
Veazey	7	4	57.1	1	1	86	1	29UK
Henry	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	--
Totals	**275**	**157**	**57.1**	**7**	**23**	**2250**	**20**	**71SC**
Opponent	*406*	*213*	*52.5*	*16*	*31*	*2509*	*12*	*70UF*

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

	No	Yds	Avg	TD	LP
Price	61	920	15.1	10	71 SC
C. Wilson	33	558	16.9	6	55 UK
Copeland	29	438	15.1	1	35 MSU
Bryson	19	167	8.8	1	63 UH
Finlayson	4	47	11.6	1	21 UH
Henry	4	31	7.8	0	20 SC
D. Martin	3	59	19.7	0	29 UK
Stephens	2	3	1.5	0	5 UAB
Lewis	1	16	16.0	1	16 UH
Taylor	1	11	11.0	0	11 UK
Totals	**157**	**2250**	**14.3**	**20**	**71 SC**
Opponent	*213*	*2509*	*11.8*	*12*	*70 UF*

Tee Martin speaks with assistant coach Randy Sanders. Photo by Donnell Field.

Fulmer File...

Thoughts on the Season

The accomplishments of our football team have made this fall an exciting time for the University of Tennessee. I trust that students, alumni and fans of the Vols are having as much fun as we coaches and players.

We have reached three of our goals, and a fourth is within our sight. An undefeated season, an Eastern Division championship of the Southeastern Conference and, finally, an outright SEC title are already in the books.

But the dream continues. It is mind-boggling, almost beyond comprehension, to realize that we will be playing Florida State for the national championship in the Fiesta Bowl come Jan. 4.

Mind-boggling, but very much deserved. These Vols have earned everything that has come their way, especially because of the resourcefulness they have displayed in posting hard-fought victories in games that went down to the wire.

It is in games such as Syracuse, Florida, Arkansas and Mississippi State that character comes to the front. In each of those four battles, a lot of people wouldn't have given a plugged nickel for our chances as the clock wound down late in the game.

Probably our most harrowing test came against Arkansas, when we were the fortunate beneficiary of a Razorback fumble near midfield with defeat staring us in the face. Even with that fortuitous development, our team had to drive 43 yards for the score. We succeeded because our players refused to accept defeat.

This bunch had the right chemistry. It's been the most focused team I've ever been around. One thing that makes them special is that they have listened to their coaches and gone about their business week by week. This has been a unique team from the chemistry standpoint, and I'm thankful for that. They have played with great intensity.

There has understandably been a great deal of talk about the Bowl Championship Series, or the BCS as it is more familiarly called. In terms of creating interest in college football, it has been a tremendous success. It's obvious it worked itself out this year, and it is certainly a better system than what we've had. I'm with those people, though, who believe it is time for college football to turn to a playoff plan. Of course, details will need to be worked out. But as of now my sentiments side with the idea of taking 16 teams and finding a way to arrive at a championship game. It is easy to imagine the good publicity and fan excitement college football would derive from a tournament during the month of December.

The Tennessee Volunteers are delighted to be involved in the first sanctioned championship game for college football. Either we or the Florida State Seminoles will be crowned as national champs the night of Jan. 4.

Athletic Director Doug Dickey assures me we will be well represented by the great army of loyal Tennessee fans when we get to Arizona. There's nothing surprising about that. At Syracuse, Auburn, Georgia, South Carolina, Vanderbilt and Atlanta, the display of orange was an overwhelming message to our players and coaches of your unwavering support.

—Phillip Fulmer

"This bunch had the right chemistry. It's been the most focused team I've ever been around. One thing that makes them special is that they have listened to their coaches and gone about their business week by week. This has been a unique team from the chemistry standpoint, and I'm thankful for that. They have played with great intensity."

— Phillip Fulmer

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~ PRESENTS ~

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Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols...

General Neyland and Bowl Games

General Bob Neyland's magnificent career as Tennessee's head football coach (1926-52) had only one little rip in the fabric.

His teams posted a record of 173-31-12 over 21 seasons for a winning percentage of .829. At the time of his retirement that was second only to Notre Dame's legendary Knute Rockne among all the coaches up to that time.

Nine of those 21 teams were unbeaten in regular season play. Four of them were unbeaten and untied, and one of them (1939) was unbeaten, untied and unscored-upon.

He won seven conference championships, two in the old Southern Conference and five in the Southeastern Conference.

But.....

The man who almost couldn't lose during the season almost couldn't win in the postseason. His record in bowl games was two wins and five losses.

Under Neyland the Vols beat Oklahoma in the 1939 Orange Bowl, lost to Southern California in the 1940 Rose Bowl, lost to Boston College in the 1941 Sugar Bowl, lost to Rice in the 1947 Orange Bowl, beat Texas in the 1951 Cotton Bowl, lost to Maryland in the 1952 Sugar Bowl and lost to Texas in the 1953 Cotton Bowl.

Over the years various pundits have offered explanations of why the coach who was virtually invincible from September to December should have been so vulnerable in January. The most popular analysis had it that Neyland's teams played such weak regular season schedules that they weren't ready for the heavyweights they faced in the bowls. Some others had the notion that the general just didn't prepare his troops for postseason opponents in the same manner that he did for his regular season foes.

The soft schedule charge has more validity than the other, but I've always felt that the general got somewhat of an unfair bashing on that subject. It is true that he did play a generous number of creampuffs, judged by today's standards, but he was not alone. Most other big-time football schools did the same thing. Football in his era was more regional than national, and there weren't always a lot of tough opponents within reasonable traveling distances.

Another reason why Tennessee and Alabama and other strong Southern teams scheduled Chattanooga, Birmingham-Southern and Mercer was that those games provided enough money to keep the smaller school programs afloat.

Also there was the cold fact that Neyland dealt with major opposition in a masterful fashion throughout his career. Alabama was one of the great powers of the day, but the general wound up well ahead of the Tide. Vanderbilt was a major force throughout most of his career, and the Commodores only beat him two or three times. In point of fact he held the winning edge over every regular or frequent adversary he faced.

I knew the general quite well over the post-World War II phase of his career, and I just cannot accept the notion that he would ever fail to prepare his team as thoroughly as he could. It just wasn't in his nature. And remember, his two bowl victories were huge ones, the 17-0 win over Oklahoma in the 1939 Orange and the 20-14 conquest of Texas in the 1951 Cotton. It doesn't stand to reason that he would have gotten his troops ready for those two and neglected the others.

There is also this factor. He never took a team to anything other than a major bowl. Even after bowls became commonplace, he refused to take the Vols to a minor bowl. Three of his seven bowl foes were unbeaten and untied, and the other four had near-perfect records.

Also, the numbers are a bit misleading. He did not actually coach the team in the 16-0 loss to Texas in the 1953 Cotton Bowl. Ill health had overtaken him at that time, and Harvey Robinson was on the sidelines that day. And he also had a postseason win that is not reflected in the bowl records. After a tie with Kentucky knocked his 1931 team out of the Rose Bowl, Tennessee accepted a bid to a charity game in New York where the Vols beat the best the East had to offer, New York University, 13-0. That wasn't a bowl win but it was a postseason win.

And finally there is this consideration. Seven games is not enough to establish any sort of meaningful pattern. If Neyland had coached in an era when bowl games were available to Tennessee on an almost annual basis, I have no doubt that his bowl record would have ended up well on the plus side.

But as it stands, that 2-5 bowl record will always be there in cold type on the record books, reminding us that there are times when even the greatest must fall.

Former Vol

Joe Steffy (1944)

When several of us were at the College Football Hall of Fame Awards Banquet earlier this month, we met a Hall of Fame member from Army who has a claim and definite tie to Tennessee.

Joe Steffy made the Hall of Fame based on his gridiron career at Army, but played as a Vol his freshman year in 1944 before transferring to West Point.

While at Army, Steffy played on teams which fashioned a 23-2-3 overall record. The Outland Trophy winner in 1947, he was also an All-America guard. He helped open holes for Glenn Davis and Doc Blanchard during his career.

Steffy is from Chattanooga and currently lives in Newburgh, N.Y., where he operates a car dealership.

Tennessee can lay at least partial claim to College Football Hall of Fame member Joe Steffy, a native of Chattanooga who played at UT in 1944.

Lettermen Website

Lettermen, you can now keep up to date with all that is happening with your alma mater on our official University of Tennessee website at http://**www.utsports.com**.

Once you are there, scroll down the right side of the main home page until you see *Lettermen's Club*. Double-click the *Lettermen's Club* icon, where you will be brought straight to information about your club.

1951 Championship Reunion

A special reunion of the 1951 National Championship football squad has been planned for the week of the Fiesta Bowl activities in Tempe, Ariz.

For those interested in taking part in this reunion please contact Billy Henry at (423) 974-2017 or Judy Constantine at (423) 974-9054 for more information and details.

The 1951 squad is recognized as the last Tennessee football squad to win the national championship, because they were a consensus selection voted by both the Associated Press and the United Press International.

Hunting!

The Lettermen's Club is searching for former athletes that have obtained an official lettermen's certificate from the University for their participation in a recognized Tennessee intercollegiate sport (not a club sport).

If you have been out of touch with the University and are not a member of the T-Club, we are looking for you. For more information on how you can be a part of this growing club, contact Judy Constantine at (423) 974-9054.

Four Inducted

During the weekend of the Kentucky football weekend, four people were inducted as honorary Lettermen. Those inductees into the 1998 class are retiring University of Tennessee President Joe Johnson, Associate Athletic Director for Media Relations Haywood Harris; retired Knoxville Police Officer Captain James Rowan; former Vol Network broadcaster George Mooney.

These four honorary lettermen will be honored at the Jan. 20 basketball game against Georgia at the Thompson-Boling Arena.

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The Vols blocked 15 shots and held Pittsburgh to 31 percent shooting to take a 56-53 victory Dec. 6 over the Panthers.

C. J. Black led the block shot effort with five; Charles Hathaway and Vincent Yarbrough added three each. But Tennessee wasn't the only team playing tough defense. Pittsburgh forced the Vols to commit 22 turnovers.

The game was close throughout with the men in Orange and White taking the lead for good at 44-42 on a three-point play by Hathaway with 9:19 on the clock.

Tennessee pushed the lead out to as much as five, but back-to-back buckets by Isaac Hawkins cut the lead to 51-50 with 3:28 left in the game. Tony Harris answered with two huge free throws.

Black made it a two-possession game when his two free throws put the score at 56-51 with just over one minute remaining. Tennessee then held the Panthers scoreless until a last-second bucket by Hawkins made the final margin three points.

Tennessee did not score from the field in the final five minutes of the game, but hit five of six free throws to pull out the win.

T. Harris led the Vols with 17 points, and Hathaway added 11 and seven rebounds. Isaac Hawkins led Pittsburgh with 20 points and 13 rebounds.

After the win over Pittsburgh, Tennessee traveled to Philadelphia Dec. 10 to take on St. Joseph's. The Vols left disappointed, as a last-second shot by Andre Howard with 4.5 seconds to play was the difference in a 55-53 loss.

The Vols trailed 31-21 at halftime and by as much as 12 in the second half. They battled back to tie the game at 51 with two Brandon Wharton free throws with 2:25 on the clock.

Yarbrough then stole the ball, and the Vols had the chance to the take the lead. But Tennessee could not convert the turnover into points.

St. Joe's went back up two, but Isiah Victor knotted the score at 53 with a layup. That set the stage for Howard's game-winning bucket.

Tennessee had chance to tie, but Tony Harris' shot at the buzzer rimmed out.

Victor led the Vols with 11 points, and Hathaway tossed in 10 more.

VOLUNTEERS 56 - PANTHERS 53

Pittsburgh (53)

Cosby 2, Taylor 15, Hawkins 20, Cummings 11, Lockhart 3, Primus 0, Holmes 2, Greer 0. TOTALS 20-64 6-7 53.

Tennessee (56)

Yarbrough 3, Victor 9, Hathaway 11, Wharton 4, Tony Harris 17, Lee 4, Green 1, Baker 0, Davis 2, Torrey Harris 0, Black 4. TOTALS 17-42 20-31 56.

Halftime: UT 32-28. 3-pointers: Pitt 7-20, UT 2-11. Rebounds: Pitt 41, UT 37. Assists: Pitt 9, UT 11. Fouled out: Cosby. A: 13,383.

VOLUNTEERS 53 - HAWKS 55

Tennessee (53)

Yarbrough 8, Black 5, Hathaway 10, Tony Harris 5, Wharton 6, Lee 8, Green 0, Baker 0, Davis 0, Torrey Harris 0, Victor 11. TOTALS 19-57 10-14 53.

St. Joseph's (55)

Howard 6, Haskins 7, Reid 14, Brown 15, Crenshaw 13, Gallagher 0, Wilkins 0, Woods 0, Sazanov 0. TOTALS 21-68 7-13 55.

Halftime: St. Joe's 31-21. 3-pointers: UT 5-21, St. Joe's 6-11. Rebounds: UT 39, St. Joe's 47. Assists: UT 16, St. Joe's 11. Fouled out: none. A: 3200.

The Vols are off until Dec. 19 for final examinations. They then travel to Tampa, Fla., to take on the South Florida Bulls before returning to the Thompson-Boling Arena on Dec. 22 for their final non-conference game against North Carolina-Greensboro. Then Tennessee's next game will be Jan. 2 at Auburn to open SEC play.

The Lady Volunteers have played one game since our last issue because they are off for final examinations. But it was a game with a big-time result.

It wasn't the final score that meant so much - sure the No. 3 Lady Vols won easily over the No. 16 Duke Blue Devils 74-60 at the Honda Elite 4 Holiday Classic on Dec. 6 in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. - as it was the record that was tied during the game.

With school scoring leader Bridgette Gordon in attendance, Chamique Holdsclaw tied the former Tennessee standout's career mark with a 12-point performance.

Holdsclaw, this week's SEC Player of the Week, will have to wait until the Lady Vols next game on Dec. 17 (at Fayetteville, Ark., to open SEC play) to break Gordon's career record.

Teresa Geter had a team-high 17 points and Kristen Clement added 13 as the Lady Vols (6-1) won their fifth straight game.

LADY VOLUNTEERS 74 - BLUE DEVILS 60

Tennessee (74)

Holdsclaw 12, Catchings 9, Geter 17, Jolly 7, Randall 8, Snow 8, Clement 13, Pillow 0. TOTALS 32-60 9-18 74.

Duke (60)

Erickson 6, Schweitzer 6, Vangorp 22, Browne 5, Howard 8, Parent 4, Gingrich 2, Black 1, Rice 6. TOTALS 24-59 10-14 60.

Halftime: UT 37-24. 3-pointers: UT 1-5, Duke 2-14. Rebounds: UT 29, Duke 29. Assists: UT 9, Duke 8. Fouled out: Erickson. A: 3000.

After the Dec. 17 game, the Lady Vols return to Thompson-Boling Arena on Dec. 19 to face Stanford, and then they host UCLA on Dec. 21. They then go to Oxford, Miss., on Dec. 29 to play Mississippi, and then its on to New York's Madison Square Garden for a game with Rutgers on Jan. 3.

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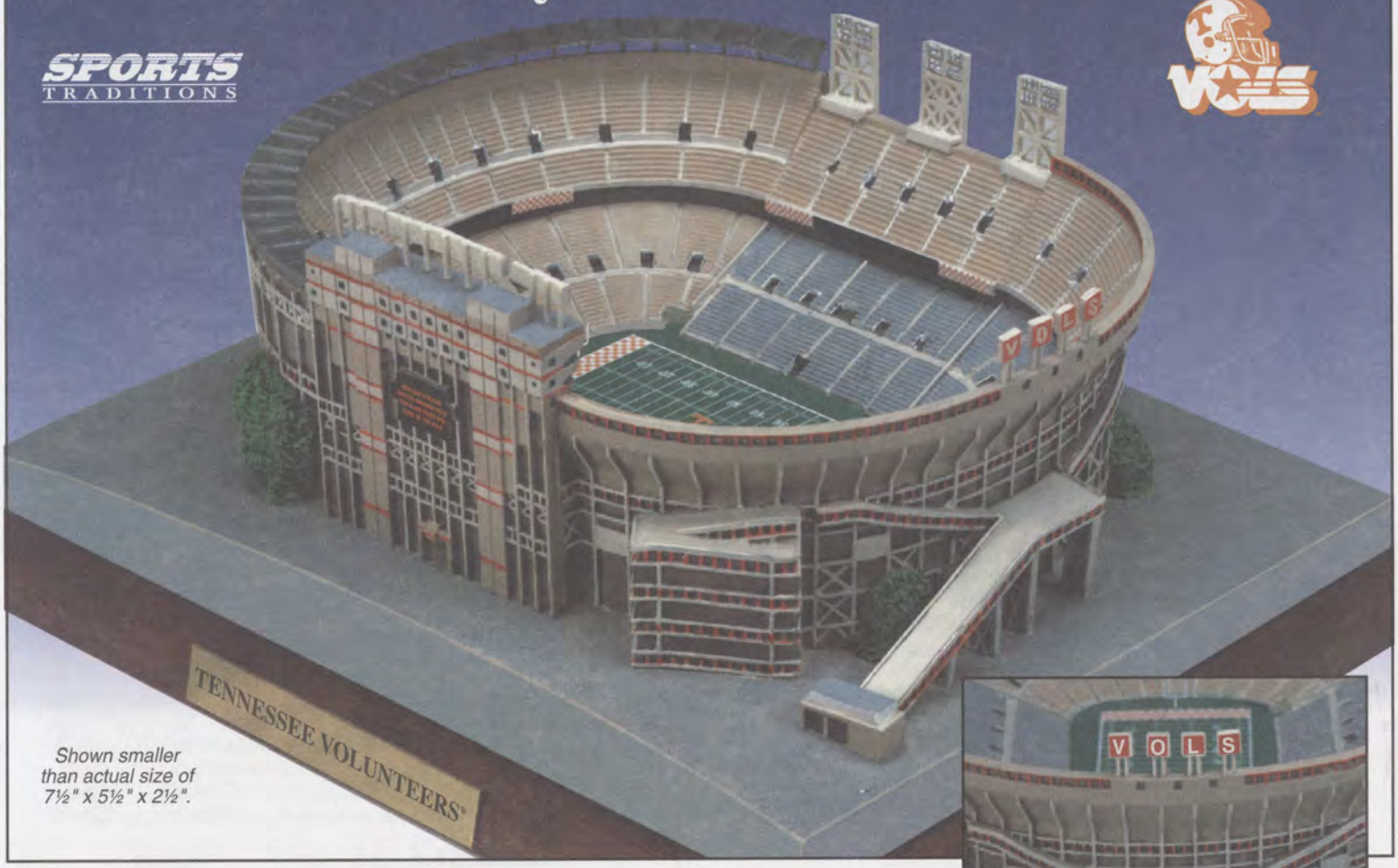

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VASF & MARKETING NEWS

Welcome Jim Phillips

The VASF office would like to extend a Big Orange welcome to the new Assistant Athletic Director for Development James (Jim) J. Phillips.

Phillips, who for the past two years has been the Development Officer at Arizona State University, will be responsible for major gift solicitation and planned and capital gifts. He will also be involved in day-to-day operations of the VASF office.

Phillips, a 32-year-old native of Chicago, received his undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois and a masters degree at Arizona State.

Please help the VASF welcome Jim and his wife, Laura Ann, to the Volunteer family.

Tostitos Fiesta Bowl Tickets

Tickets for the Volunteers' appearance in the National Championship Tostitos Fiesta Bowl were shipped from the Ticket office in Knoxville on Dec. 16. Will call is available in Knoxville from Dec. 17 until Dec. 22, and Dec. 30-31. Will call tickets not picked up will be taken to Arizona and will be available at the South end of the stadium on gameday. The Sun Devil stadium ticket area is located outside of section 145 in the I.C.A. building. Please see page 21 for a diagram of Sun Devil stadium.

1999 Fund Drive Kick-Offs Set

The 1999 Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund Drive will kick-off this January with big meetings set for six cities. Here are the dates and cities for all six kickoff meetings. Places and times will be available directly from the VASF office by dialing (423) 974-1218, and past Fund Drive workers will be contacted.

1999 Fund Drive kickoff meetings will be held Jan. 6 in Knoxville, Jan. 7 in Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 11 in Kingsport, Jan. 12 in Memphis, Jan. 13 in Nashville and Jan. 14 in Chattanooga.

If you are interested in working with the 1999 Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund Drive, which runs from January until March, contact Bill Myers in the VASF office at (423) 974-1218. Fund Drive workers help the VASF encourage renewals and recruit new members into the VASF. Workers are divided into geographic teams. Team and individual prizes are available.

Some of the prizes in the past few years have included away football and bowl trips, televisions and other electronics, and the team prize: the opportunity to "run through the 'T'" before a home football game in 1999 in front of 106,000-plus fans.

Free Basketball Shuttle is Provided for 1998-99 Season

The athletic department will provide a courtesy shuttle between the Agricultural campus and Thompson-Boling Arena for all regular season home basketball games. Please note that there are some available "pay-to-park" lots on the main campus on weekends, but not on week nights due to University evening classes. The majority of "pay-to-park" spaces are available on the Agricultural campus for the 1998-99 season.

1999 VASF Donation Reminders are in the Mail

Recently, the VASF sent 1999 renewal cards to all donors. VASF donors were a big part of this year's winning edge for the Volunteers as they ran the regular-season table to be 12-0 now and in the hunt for the National Title. In 1998, supporters of Tennessee student-athletes contributed more than $9.1 million for the betterment of Tennessee athletics. The goal for 1999 is to repeat the feat. This is a wonderful time to make your 1999 contributions before tax season begins. Help to continue the continuous pursuit of academic and athletic excellence. Call the VASF office at (423) 974-1218 to charge your 1999 donation by phone.

Upcoming Basketball Games

Volunteer fans, mark your calendars now and make plans to attend the Vols basketball game against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Spartans at Thompson-Boling Arena on Dec. 22, at 7:30. It will be Boy Scouts night as all boy scouts, in uniform, will be admitted free.

The Volunteers return from the Christmas holidays to tip-off the home SEC schedule with a game against the LSU Tigers on Jan. 6. It will be Krystal Basketball card set night with the first 3,000 Volunteer faithful receiving a complimentary set of 1998-99 Tennessee basketball cards for collecting and trading. Gates will open at 6:30 p.m. and both games tip off at 7:30. Tickets are available at the Ticket office until halftime of each game, or you may charge by phone with a Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card by dialing (423) 656-1200.

Baseball Season Tickets

The 1999 Tennessee baseball season is quickly approaching. This year's version of coach Rod Delmonico's charges will be a fresh set of new faces. Their first home game will be Feb. 26 as part of a three-game series against the Louisville Cardinals. For more information, or to be placed on the mailing list for a 1999 baseball season ticket application, please call Chip Bryant in the Marketing office at (423) 974-1734.

Baseball Banquet

The 1999 Leadoff Banquet is approaching. Reserve your tickets today for the Feb. 1 event to be held at Thompson-Boling Arena. Former Los Angeles Dodgers centerfielder Brett Butler will be this year's keynote speaker. Tickets are $25 per person or $200 for a table seating eight. Corporate tables are $275 for seven guests and one Vol baseball player or coach. Corporate tableholders also receive a special pre-banquet reception with Butler. The food will be catered by Calhoun's of Knoxville. For more information or to reserve your space, call the Marketing office at (423) 974-1734.

Basketball Big Game Packages Available

The 1998-99 Big Game Package contains four of Tennessee's toughest home game opponents for only $48. All of these games are on Saturdays and there is no guessing where your seats will be each game as these tickets are for the same seats all four games. Watch as the Vols take on the South Carolina Gamecocks (Jan. 9), the Alabama Crimson Tide (Jan. 30), the Vanderbilt Commodores (Feb. 13) and the defending National Champion Kentucky Wildcats (Feb. 23). ***THIS KENTUCKY GAME WILL BE JOHN WARD'S FINAL HOME BROADCAST.***

Call the Ticket office at (423) 656-1200. You may charge by phone with a Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card if you like.

The Junior Vols

The University of Tennessee and Chick-fil-A have formed an elite organization offering younger Vol supporters the chance to be a part of something special. The club is known as the Junior Vols and membership is limited to girls and boys aged 13-years-old and under.

For an annual fee of $25, members of the Junior Vols club will receive the official Junior Vols T-shirt and membership card, a birthday card from Smokey, a complimentary subscription to the Junior Vols newsletter ("Paw Prints") and free admission into certain Tennessee olympic home sports events, including baseball, swimming, track & field, tennis and golf.

This is a wonderful Christmas gift as the spring sports seasons are just around the corner. For more information, contact the Marketing office at (423) 974-1734.

—Compiled by Steve Sams

18 Vols Named to Academic All-SEC

A total of 182 student-athletes were named to the 1998 SEC Football Academic Honor Roll by SEC Commissioner Roy Kramer.

While Vanderbilt topped the list with 22 student-athletes, Tennessee placed 18 on the Honor Roll. That tied Tennessee for third with Kentucky. Florida placed 21 members on the list.

Those from the Volunteer football team include Mikki Allen, Will Bartholomew, Eric Campbell, Josh Campbell, Marcus Carr, Michael Emert, John Finlayson, Maurice Fitzgerald, Samuel Frogg, Jeff Hall, Michael Houston, Andre James, David Leaverton, Josh Plemons, Benson Scott, Robert Starks, Josh Tucker and Burney Veazey.

Swimmers Place Eight in Finals

The Vol swimming and diving squad placed eight members of the squad in the finals part of competition at the U.S. Open meet in College Station, Texas. Swimmers Zane DeWitz, Michael Gilliam, Jeremy McDonnell and Joel Shapiro placed at the U.S. meet, while Gabi Chereches claimed medals at the Texas Invitational in Austin, Texas.

Fall Tennis Rankings Announced

The Volunteer tennis team stands 12th in the fall rankings, which are based upon fall performances. The Vols were a preseason No. 19 in those rankings, which are based upon a vote. The Big Orange also fared well in the individual rankings. True freshman Peter Handoyo is ranked 10th, up from a preseason rank of No. 97. Sophomore Mark Parsons is ranked No. 46, up from a preseason rank of No. 100.

Handoyo Receives Honor

True tennis freshman Peter Handoyo was named the ITA National Player of the Month for November. Handoyo won the ITA Region III Indoor Championships in Athens, Ga., held on Nov. 5-8. He took the title by advancing through the 128-player draw to win six consecutive matches. Handoyo owns a squad-best, 20-4 record for the fall. Of these 20 wins, 16 have been straight-set victories.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

1998 Final SEC Football Standings

Division	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
EASTERN				
#Tennessee	8	0	12	0
Florida	7	1	9	2
Georgia	6	2	8	3
Kentucky	4	4	7	4
Vanderbilt	1	7	2	9
South Carolina	0	8	1	10
WESTERN				
*Mississippi St.	6	2	8	4
*Arkansas	6	2	9	2
Alabama	4	4	7	4
Mississippi	3	5	6	5
LSU	2	6	4	7
Auburn	1	7	3	8

 # SEC Champions/Eastern Division Champions
*** SEC Western Division Co-Champions**

1998-99 SEC Bowl Game Lineup

Dec. 29 Music City, Nashville, 5 p.m. ESPN
Alabama vs. Virginia Tech

Dec. 31 Peach, Atlanta, 5 p.m. ESPN
Georgia vs. Virginia

Dec. 31 Independence, Shreveport, La. 8:30 ESPN
Mississippi vs. Texas Tech

Jan. 1 Outback, Tampa, Fla. 11 a.m. ESPN
Kentucky vs. Penn State

Jan. 1 Citrus, Orlando, Fla. 1 p.m. ABC
Arkansas vs. Michigan

Jan. 1 Cotton, Dallas, 11 a.m. FOX
Mississippi State vs. Texas

Jan. 2 Orange, Miami, Fla. 8 p.m. ABC
Florida vs. Syracuse

Jan. 4 Fiesta, Tempe, Ariz. 8 p.m. ABC
Tennessee vs. Florida State

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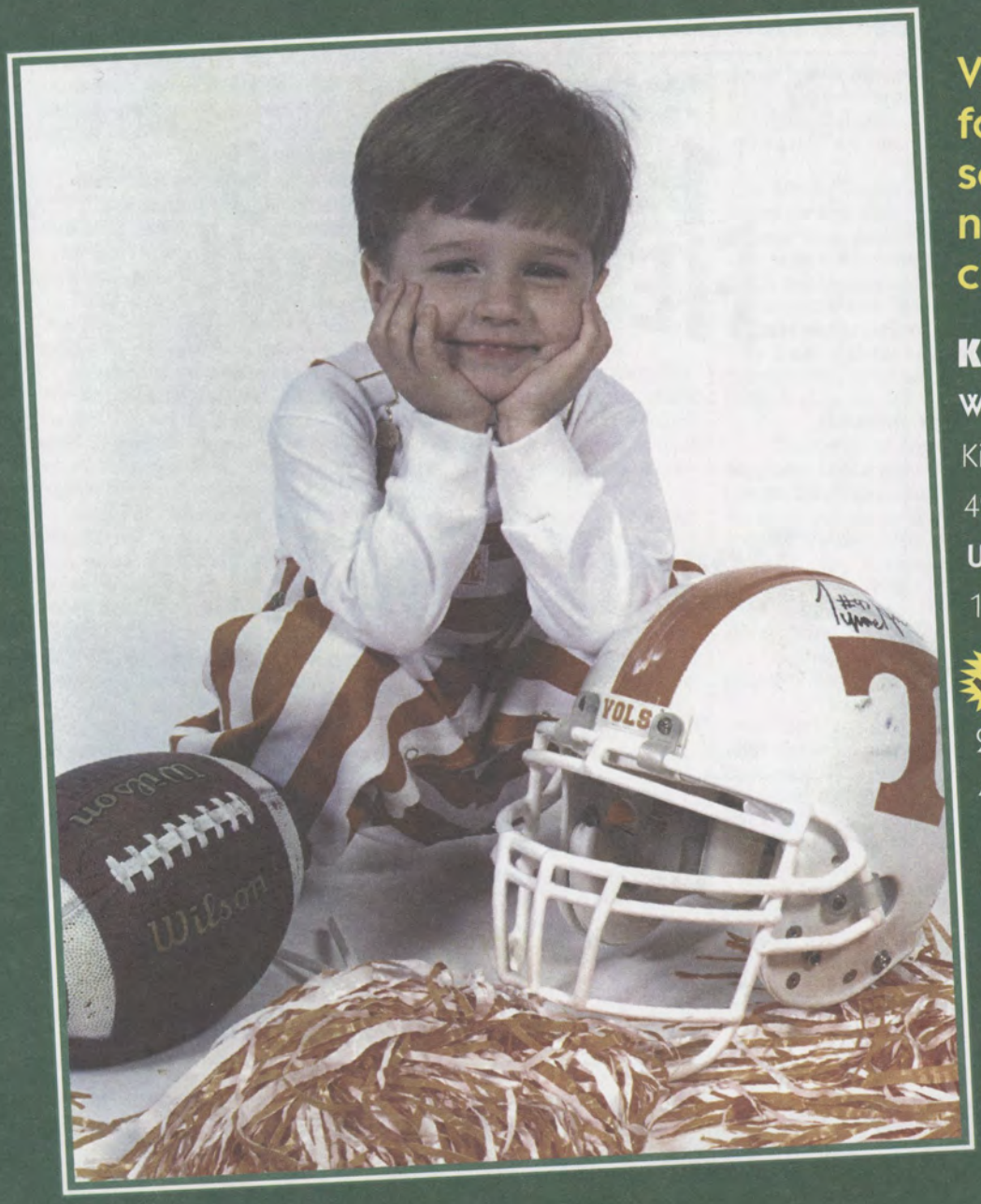

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Notes on the 1998 Season...

UT EARNS No. 1 RANKING

With a 12-0 record, and wins over six ranked teams, the Volunteers are ranked No. 1 by the Associated Press and ESPN/*USA Today*. Tennessee is a unanimous No. 1 in AP, collecting all 70 first-place votes. UT collected 60 of 62 first-place votes in the coaches poll.

It is the first time since the week of Nov. 8 that the Vols have held the top slot in both polls. UT was tied with Kansas State in the coaches poll that week.

Overall, the Vols have spent five consecutive weeks holding the top spot.

Including the final regular season ranking, UT has spent a total 16 weeks as the No. 1 ranked team in its history. UT was ranked No. 1 for one week in 1956 and for six weeks in 1951, from Oct. 23-Nov. 6 and Nov. 20-Dec. 4. Tennessee was also ranked No. 1 for four straight weeks in 1939 from Oct. 24-Nov. 14.

VOLS WIN 13TH SEC TITLE; THIRD IN 1990s

Tennessee won its second straight SEC title and third of the 1990s with a 24-14 win over Mississippi State in the SEC Championship game. The Vols defeated Auburn, 30-29, in the 1997 title game. The Vols have won 13 league titles, nine outright, ranking second only to Alabama's 20.

It marked the fourth time the Vols have won back-to-back titles in school history. UT wore the league crown in 1989-90 and won three straight from 1938-40.

VOLS POST FIRST 12-WIN SEASON

Tennessee won 12 games for the first time in school history. UT has won at least 11 games for the seventh time in school history and the third time in the last four years. The Vols posted 11-win seasons in 1938 (11-0), 1950 (11-1), 1970 (11-1), 1989 (11-1), 1995 (11-1), 1997 (11-2) and 1998 (12-0).

In fact, Tennessee has won at least 10 games for four straight seasons and five of the last six. Since 1989, UT is 100-20-2 (.828) with six 10-win seasons. Since 1995, UT is 44-5 (.898). It is the winningest four-year period in school history.

Tennessee has won its last 20 regular season games, dating back to a 33-20 loss to Florida in 1997.

A PERFECT SEASON

Tennessee completed its eighth perfect regular season in school history with a 12-0 mark. Tennessee has finished the regular season undefeated and untied on seven previous occasions (1896, 1914, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1951, 1956). On each of those occasions, the Vols wound up 10-0, except 1896 (4-0) and 1914 (9-0). The 1938 team is the only team to finish with a perfect 11-0 mark, including a bowl win.

With an 8-0 mark in SEC games, Tennessee also completed its first perfect league slate since 1967 when it finished 6-0.

It was the eighth time the Vols marched through the conference scheduled undefeated.

HEAD COACH PHILLIP FULMER

In his seventh season at the helm of the University of Tennessee football program is Phillip Fulmer (Tennessee, '72). He has recorded a **66-11 (.857)** career record to rank first nationally among active head coaches. He currently has the highest winning percentage of any Tennessee coach, passing John Barnhill's .846. Prior to being named interim head coach at the start of the 1992 season and then accepting the full time duties after the season, Fulmer had served as an assistant coach at UT since 1980. Fulmer's association with the University of Tennessee extends back to his playing days where he was an offensive guard. When Fulmer was on the offensive line (1969-71) the Vols posted a 30-5 record and captured the 1969 SEC Championship.

FULMER WINS COACH OF THE YEAR

Head coach Phillip Fulmer received the SEC Coach of the Year award by the Associated Press.

He also received the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year award by the Football Writers Association of America.

Fulmer is also a finalist for Coach of the Year awards from several other groups, including the Walter Camp award, presented by Street & Smith's, and Football News (semifinalist).

HALL HITS 100 POINTS

Jeff Hall's 104 points this season ranks as the fourth best total in school history and the second most by a kicker. He is the sixth Vol to score 100 points in a season and the fourth kicker. He led the SEC in total points.

Hall, the SEC's all-time leading scorer, finished his career with 371 points. That point total is the sixth highest total in NCAA history by a kicker.

Hall has been on fire lately, connecting on 11 of his last 12 field goal attempts, while not missing an extra point attempt all year. He has made a career-high eight consecutive field goals.

He is the SEC career leader in PATs made and attempted with 188-of-194. He ranks tied for fifth in SEC history with Georgia's Kanon Parkman and LSU's David Browndyke with 61 field goals made. His 19 field goals made this season is a career high, along with his 79.2 percentage.

VOLS EARN WEEKLY SEC HONORS

Five Vols earned SEC Player of the Week honors this season. They were

Linebacker Al Wilson garnered the defensive award after causing a school-record three fumbles against Florida.

Defensive end Shaun Ellis was named Defensive Player of the Week after returning an interception 90 yards for a score against Auburn.

Defensive back Deon Grant took the defensive award following the Georgia game where he made an interception.

Quarterback Tee Martin was named Offensive Player of the Week after completing an NCAA record 23-of-24 passes for 315 yards for a record completion percentage of 95.8 against South Carolina. He connected for a record 23 consecutive passes in the game and 24 over two games.

Receiver Peerless Price caught seven passes for a career-high 181 yards and one score in the win over Vanderbilt, earning Offensive Player of the Week.

SEC MVP: PEERLESS PRICE

Receiver Peerless Price was named the MVP of the SEC Championship game, following a six-catch, 97-yard performance that saw him catch the go-ahead 41-yard touchdown with 6:15 remaining in the game.

Price finished his career ranked third in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns. His career totals are 147 catches, 2298 yards and 19 touchdowns.

He set receiving career-highs for catches (61), yards (920) and TDs (10) this season. His 920 yards is the fifth-best total in school history for a season, while his 61 receptions ranks fourth. His 10 TDs ranks second, behind Marcus Nash's 13 in 1997.

Over the last six games, Price has 37

TENNESSEE (12-0)

DATE	*OPPONENT*	*SCORE*
Sept. 5	at Syracuse (17/14) (ESPN)	34-33
Sept. 19	**FLORIDA (2/2) (CBS) (OT)**	**20-17**
Sept. 26	**HOUSTON**	**42-7**
Oct. 3	at Auburn (CBS)	17-9
Oct. 10	at Georgia (7/7) (CBS)	22-3
Oct. 24	**ALABAMA (CBS)**	**35-18**
Oct. 31	at South Carolina (JP)	49-14
Nov. 7	**ALA.-BIRMINGHAM (HC)**	**37-13**
Nov. 14	**ARKANSAS** (10/9) **(CBS)**	**28-24**
Nov. 21	**KENTUCKY** (nr/25) **(CBS)**	**59-21**
Nov. 28	at Vanderbilt (JP/espn2)	41-0
	SEC Championship Game	
Dec. 5	Mississippi St. (23/22) (ABC)	**24-14**

FLORIDA STATE (11-1)

DATE	*OPPONENT*	*SCORE*
Aug. 31	vs. Texas A&M (14/15)	23-14
Sept. 12	at N.C. State	7-24
Sept. 19	**DUKE**	**62-13**
Sept. 26	**USC (18/17)**	**30-10**
Oct. 3	at Maryland	24-10
Oct. 10	at Miami	26-14
Oct. 17	**CLEMSON**	**48-0**
Oct. 24	at Georgia Tech (20/19)	34-7
Oct. 31	**NORTH CAROLINA**	**39-13**
Nov. 7	**VIRGINIA** (21/22)	**45-14**
Nov. 14	at Wake Forest	24-7
Nov. 21	**FLORIDA (4/4)**	**23-12**

Opponent rank in parenthesis (AP/USA Today-ESPN)

catches for 665 yards (18.0 avg.) and five TDs. In the first six games, he had 24 catches for 255 yards (10.6 avg.) and five TDs.

TRAVIS HENRY

A key to the Vols rushing success this season has been Travis Henry. Henry led the Vols with 970 yards rushing, including five 100-yard rushing games.

Henry rushed for more than 100 yards in four of the last five games. He scored seven TDs in a six game stretch from Alabama through Vanderbilt.

He made his first start in the Arkansas game, rushing for a career-high 197 yards on 32 carries with one score.

Over the last seven games, Henry rushed for 840 yards on 146 carries with seven touchdowns. He averaged 5.8 yards per carry during that span.

He has been a second-half back for the Vols this season, rushing for 602 of his 970 yards (62%) in the second half. He gained more yards in the final half in every game except UAB and Vanderbilt.

VOLS REACH 10TH STRAIGHT BOWL; 39TH OVERALL

Tennessee will be making its 39th bowl appearance, which ranks second all-time to Alabama's 49. The Vols have won 21 bowl games which is tied for third with Penn State.

It is the 10th consecutive bowl appearance for the Volunteers, which ties the longest consecutive streak in school history from 1965-74. It is the 17th bowl in the last 18 years. UT has won three of the last four bowl games and nine of its last 12.

VOLS RECEIVE ALL-SEC HONORS

Five Vols were named to the Associated Press All-SEC first team and three were named to the second team.

First team honorees were OG Cosey Coleman and PK Jeff Hall on offense. DT Darwin Walker and linebackers Al Wilson and Raynoch Thompson were selected on defense.

Second team selections were OT Chad Clifton, WR Peerless Price and CB Dwayne Goodrich.

Head coach Phillip Fulmer was named SEC Coach of the Year.

Football News listed Clifton, Hall, Wilson and Thompson on its All-SEC squad.

VOLS LED SEC IN RUSHING

Tennessee led the SEC in rushing, averaging 211.3 yards per game and ranked 17th nationally. It is the first time since 1994 that the Vols have averaged more than 200 yards rushing per game.

UT rushed for more than 200 yards seven times on the season, even topping the 300-yard mark against Houston. They had at least 150 yards rushing in each game.

The Vols had a 100-yard rusher nine times in 1998. Three different backs have rushed for 100 yards this season. Travis Henry has done it five times, Jamal Lewis three and Travis Stephens once.

Tennessee ranked fourth in the SEC in total offense at 398.8 yards per game and second in scoring at 34.0 points per game.

Tennessee had 22 rushing TDs over the last seven games after five in the first five games. The Vols are 47-2-2 when rushing for more than 200 yards since 1990, and have won 17 straight. The Vols are 57-1-2 when a back rushes for more than 100 yards in the 1990s.

MARTIN MANAGES OFFENSE

Tee Martin's offensive management has improved as the season has progressed. He threw for 665 yards (133.0), nine TDs with four interceptions on 51-of-105 passes (48.6 percent) in the first five games.

Over the last seven games, Martin has thrown for 1499 yards (214.1), 10 TDs, two interception on 102-of-162 passes (63.0 percent).

Martin has thrown one interception in his last 91 pass attempts and has only two in his last 179 attempts. He has thrown at least one TD pass in the last six games and rushed for a score in four of the last five.

He has thrown 60 percent or better in six of the last eight games and seven times on the season.

MARTIN INCREASES TOTAL OFFENSE

Tennessee's total offense per game has gone up over the last seven games to 423.7 yards compared to only 359.6 yards over the first five games.

Martin has played a big part, accounting for more than 200 yards total offense seven times, while gaining at least 200 yards rushing and passing four times in the last six games.

Over the first five games, he averaged 166.2 total offensive yards per game while being accountable for eight TDs.

Over the last seven games, he has averaged 231.4 total offensive yards per game with 15 TDs.

VOLS 6TH AGAINST RUSH

Tennessee has been tough against the run all season, allowing a meager 93.9 yards per game which ranks second in the SEC and sixth nationally. The defense held opponents to less than 100 yards eight times, including holding opponents to less than 70 yards rushing five times. (minus-13 vs. Florida, 39 vs. Houston, 59 vs. Georgia, 39 vs. Kentucky, 65 vs. Mississippi State).

They allowed only five rushing TDs all season, tying the second lowest total in school history (1966). The 1996 defense gave up four. They have allowed only two rushing scores in the last six games.

The Vols have held their last four opponents to less than 100 yards rushing. They have given up 276 yards on 126 carries for a 2.2 average during that span.

DEFENSE RANKS IN TOP 20

Tennessee's defense ranks in the top 20 nationally in total defense (17th), rushing defense (6th), pass efficiency (17th) and scoring defense (9th). The Vols also rank second in the SEC in each of those categories.

The Vols allowed 303.0 total yards per game and have held each of the last two opponents to less than 200 total yards (174 vs. Vanderbilt; 149 vs. Mississippi State). Five times opponents have been held to less than 300 yards total offense.

Opponents have completed 39.3 percent of their passes the last two games (22-of-56), with the Vols picking off five passes. They have given up 167 yards passing in the last two games.

Tennessee's defense has kept the opposition's offenses out of the endzone in the last two games. (Mississippi State scored on interception and punt returns.) They have held opponents to 18 points or less nine times, while holding four teams to single digits, including one shutout.

WILSON A KEY RECEIVER

Receiver Cedrick Wilson had been a model of consistency, catching at least four passes in six of the last seven games. He has at least 50 yards receiving during that span, including a 100-yard game against Kentucky. Over the last seven games, he has 29 catches for 496 yards and four scores.

VOLS WIN TURNOVER BATTLE

Tennessee won the battle of turnovers seven times this season and played even just once. UT lost the turnover margin against Houston, UAB and Arkansas. Overall, the Vols wound up a plus-15 in turnover margin, leading the SEC and are for sixth nationally in that category at 1.33. They capitalized heavily on converting six Vanderbilt turnovers into 24 points.

TEE MARTIN'S RECORDS

Listed below are the records Tee Martin set against South Carolina on Oct. 31.

Martin began by completing his first 23 passes, breaking the NCAA single-game record of 22 by Iowa's Chuck Long in 1984 against Indiana. The SEC mark was held by Auburn's Stan White of 16 against New Mexico State in 1993

For the game, he completed 23-of-24 for a completion percentage of 95.8 percent. Current Colorado coach and former UCLA star Rick Neuheisel held the record of 92.6 (25-27) against Washington in 1983.

Martin ended the victory over Alabama with a completion, then hit 23 more in a row to surpass Peyton Manning's school record (12) vs. Kentucky in 1997, the SEC mark of Ole Miss' Kent Austin (20) and the NCAA record for two games of 23 shared by USC's Rob Johnson in 1994 and Maryland's Scott Milanovich in 1994.

The Vols set a team NCAA single-game record for completion percentage of 96.0 percent on 24-of-25 passing. That bettered the old mark of 92.6 set by UCLA against Washington in 1983.

LINEBACKING TRIO

The linebacking trio of Al Wilson, Raynoch Thompson and Eric Westmoreland have been a solid trio when it comes to stopping opposing offenses.

All three rank 1-2-3 in total tackles on the season and are among the Big Play leaders.

Wilson, the second-leading tackler, was Butkus Award semifinalist and has missed two games due to injury, but has played big on the field. He has three double digit tackle games this season and earned SEC Defensive Player of the Week against Florida after causing three fumbles and making 12 tackles with a sack and tackle for loss.

Thompson, the leading tackler, has five double-digit tackle games, including three of the last five. He leads the team in Big Plays, including nine tackles for loss.

Westmoreland has two double-digit tackle games, with the most recent coming against Kentucky when he made 10 hits (9 solo). He has 27 tackles over the last three games and six tackles for loss over the last four.

—Jeff Muir

FLORIDA STATE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

SE:	7	**Laveranues Coles (Jr., 6-1, 195)**
	80	Ron Dugans (Jr., 6-3, 190)
ST:	76	**Ross Brannon (So., 6-8, 300)**
	71	Jerry Carmichael (So., 6-4, 310)
SG:	68	**Jason Whitaker (Jr., 6-5, 300)**
	64	Justin Amman (So., 6-4, 295)
C:	57	**Eric Thomas (Jr., 6-3, 295)**
	54	Jarad Moon (So., 6-4, 291)
TG:	71	Jerry Carmichael (So., 6-4, 310)
	78	**Donald Heaven (So., 6-5, 305)**
TT:	60	Tarlos Thomas (So., 6-5, 310)
	78	**Donald Heaven (So., 6-5, 305)**
TE:	84	**Myron Jackson (Sr., 6-5, 260)**
	81	Nick Franklin (Jr., 6-3, 265)
QB:	14	**Marcus Outzen (So., 6-2, 220)**
	11	Jared Jones (Fr., 6-4, 220)
FB:	31	**Lamarr Glenn (Sr., 6-1, 235)**
	36	William McCray (So., 6-0, 220)
TB:	23	**Travis Minor (So., 6-1, 190)**
	24	Jeff Chaney (So., 6-0, 200)
FL:	9	**Peter Warrick (Jr., 6-0, 190)**
	13	Marvin Minnis (So., 6-1, 185)

DEFENSE

RE:	40	**Tony Bryant (Sr., 6-4, 268)**
	58	Jamal Reynolds (So., 6-4, 240)
DT:	92	**Jerry Johnson (Jr., 6-2, 280)**
	43	Billy Rhodes (Sr., 6-1, 265)
NG:	96	**Larry Smith (Jr., 6-5, 288)**
	53	Corey Simon (Jr., 6-4, 275)
LE:	56	**Roland Seymour (So., 6-4, 264)**
	99	David Warren (So., 6-5, 240)
WLB:	45	**Lamont Green (Sr., 6-3, 230)**
	29	**Tommy Polley (So., 6-5, 233)**
MLB:	52	Demetro Stephens (Sr., 6-3, 236)
	55	**Brian Allen (So., 6-2, 225)**
SLB:	21	Deon Humphrey (Sr., 6-4, 240)
	49	**Bobby Rhodes (Jr., 6-1, 215)**
LCB:	15	**Mario Edwards (Jr., 6-2, 195)**
	4	**Troy Saunders (Sr., 5-10, 185)**
FS:	11	**Dexter Jackson (Sr., 6-1, 195)**
	37	Shawn McCorkel (So., 5-11, 175)
RV:	6	**Derrick Gibson (So., 6-2, 200)**
	18	Sean Key (Jr., 6-1, 190)
RCB:	27	**Tay Cody (So., 5-11, 180)**
	8	Clevan Thomas (So., 6-0, 175)

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK:	38	**Sebastian Janikowski (So., 6-2, 255)**
P:	47	**Keith Cottrell (So., 6-4, 205)**
DS:	73	**Clay Ingram (Jr., 6-1, 265)**
HO:	14	**Marcus Outzen (So., 6-2, 220)**
PR:	9	Peter Warrick (Jr., 6-0, 190)
	1	Reggie Durden (Jr., 5-9, 175)
KR:	7	**Laveranues Coles (Jr., 6-1, 195)**
	1	Reggie Durden (Jr., 5-9, 175)

SCOUTING THE FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

The Atlantic Coast Conference champion Florida State Seminoles enter the 1999 Fiesta Bowl on a 10-game winning streak. The Seminoles have won by an average of 20.5 points per game, while scoring at least 30 points six times. They lead the nation in total defense, giving up 214.8 yards per game while holding opponents to 3.45 yards per play. They also rank second nationally in rushing defense (79.8) and scoring defense (11.5).

◆OFFENSE: Receiver Peter Warrick and tailback Travis Minor lead the Seminole offense. FSU lost the services of quarterback Chris Weinke to injury prior to the Florida game. Warrick averages 102.7 yards per game receiving and 20 yards per catch. He also leads FSU with 13 touchdowns. Minor leads with 85.7 yards per game rushing and has scored eight times. In the ACC, Florida State ranks third in total offense, second in scoring offense, fourth in rushing offense and third in passing offense.

RUSHING	Att	Yds	Avg.	TD	Yds/Game
Travis Minor	191	857	4.5	7	85.7
J. Chaney	120	573	4.8	5	47.8
PASSING	**Comp**	**Att**	**Ints/TD**	**Pct**	**Yds**
Chris Weinke	145	286	6/19	50.7	2487
M. Outzen	36	60	2/1	60.0	464
RECEIVING	**Rec**	**Yds**	**Avg**	**TD**	
Peter Warrick	61	1232	20.2	12	
Ron Dugan	38	616	16.2	3	
Marvin Minnis	22	338	15.4	2	

◆DEFENSE: The Seminoles give up only 11.5 points per game and have held 11 of their opponents to 14 points or less, including a 48-0 shutout of Clemson. Six FSU defensive players have at least 10 tackles for loss, including Lamont Green who leads the team with 73 tackles, including 10 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks. Tony Bryant leads the team with seven sacks, while Corey Simon is second with five. Mario Edwards and Dexter Jackson have combined for 10 of the squad's 18 interceptions, with Edwards picking off six. In the ACC, Florida State ranks first in total defense, first in scoring defense, first in rushing defense and first the against the pass.

◆SPECIAL TEAMS: Sebastian Janikowski heads up the kicking duties, connecting on 27-of-32 field goals while making 42-of-43 PATs. Keith Cottrell has punted 62 times for a 41.3 average with a long of 69 yards. Dee Feaster, Peter Warrick and Reggie Durden share punt return duties, combining for a 12.9 average per return. Laveranues Coles has returned 13 kickoffs for a 28.4 average.

FIELD GOALS
Sebastian Janikowski

FGM	FGA	Pct	PATs
27	32	84.4	42-43

PUNTING
Keith Cottrell

No	Yds	Avg	Long
62	2558	41.3	69

Head Coach Bobby Bowden is considered one of the best in the business.

STATISTICAL COMPARISON

	Tennessee	Florida State
RECORD:	12-0	11-1
SEC/ACC:	8-0	7-1
SCORING/GAME:	34.0	32.1
FIRST DOWNS/GAME:	19.5	20.5
TOTAL OFFENSE/GAME:	398.8	401.3
YARDS RUSHING/GAME:	211.3	149.8
YARDS PASSING/GAME:	187.5	251.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME:	29:30	31:27
3RD DOWN CONVERSIONS (pct.):	39.2	40.9
POINTS ALLOWED/GAME:	14.4	11.5
YDS ALLOWED/GAME:	303.0	214.8
YDS ALLOWED RUSHING/GAME:	93.9	79.8
YDS ALLOWED PASSING/GAME:	209.1	135.0

FSU poses a formidable defense (above) as well as a quick-strike offense (below) known for aggressive lineman and fast running backs. Photos by Osceola News.

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Faces in Big Orange Country

A dependable holder, **Benson Scott** is playing in his last game as a Volunteer. Scott has been part of placekicker Jeff Hall's record-setting school and conference scoring marks. Scott is the son of former Vol Bobby Scott. Scott, a graduate of Farragut High School in Knoxville, took over the holding duties last season, replacing the departed Jason Price. Scott has earned Academic All-SEC honors the past three seasons earning a 3.98 GPA as well as being in the College Scholars Program. During his high school career, Scott made the All-KFL team while earning the KFL Academic Athlete of the Year award in 1994, and he was awarded the Knoxville Football Official's Scholarship for his academic work.

Sarah Nichols has started her senior season with the Lady Vol swim team on the same note she left off on a year ago. The Camarillo, Calif., native has recorded two individual first-place performances this year, including an NCAA provisional qualifying time in the 1650-yard freestyle at the Miami University Invitational. She also placed first in the 1000y free versus Clemson and swam the second leg of the 800y freestyle relay unit that provisionally qualified for the national meet. In addition, she has clocked an NCAA B standard in the 500y free. Nichols is a six-time All-American, earning her most recent certificate at the 1998 NCAA Championships with an eighth-place finish in the 1650y free. The art history major currently holds the top time on the team in the 1000y free and 1650y free.

Because of an injury to Kyra Elzy, sophomore guard **Ace Clement** has been called upon to give the three-time defending NCAA champion Lady Vol basketball team a boost off the bench. The Broomall, Pa., native has responded accordingly, averaging 9.1 points and nearly two rebounds, steals and assists per game while shooting .568 from the field and .727 from the free throw line. From the three-point stripe, she has been as effective, connecting on six of 13 shots for a .462 clip. In a recent two-game stretch, Clement showcased her higher level of play, tallying a career-high 19 points vs. DePaul on five-of-five accuracy from the field and six-of-six marksmanship from the line. Three days later, she tossed in 13 points to key a 74-60 victory over #16 Duke.

After spending the first two seasons at the offensive guard position, **Spencer Riley** took over as the starting center prior to the opening of the 1998 season. Riley, a New Market native, has anchored an offensive line that lead the conference in rushing yards per game. All of that done with two back-up running backs and a first-year starting quarterback. Riley has been regarded as a highly effective pass protector, who helped protect the now departed Peyton Manning, but has learned to be a leader on the offensive line and direct a group of veteran players. Riley came to UT as a highly touted prospect garnering Parade Magazine and Max Emfinger All-America honors. He also earned a place on the BlueChip Illustrated Dream Team while a member of the Jefferson County High program.

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The Last Word...

A Christmas Remembrance by Lindsey Nelson

It is the night before Christmas. And I am given to thoughts of another night before Christmas a long time ago.

This was when I was in high school and I worked around the newspaper of the small town, running errands and doing odd jobs. And now it was early evening and most of the chores had been done. The man who worked at the paper also did a lot of community work. And in the back seat of his car he had some bags filled with food and candy.

"Wanna take a ride with me?", he said. "We won't be gone too long."

I guessed that I did, since I was not expected at home yet, and little ride around the countryside on Christmas Eve might be just what I needed.

He had an address written on a slip of paper, with directions on how to get there. Soon we were headed out of town and onto a dirt road. Wherever we were headed, it was off the beaten track. We could not be confused in the traffic because there wasn't any. But there was a half-moon that helped to light our way as we turned off the dirt road and proceeded up a narrow lane that ran close by the rail fence. There is the far corner of a field was a darkened and quiet farm shack.

We stopped the car and went to the door, and my friend knocked. There was no sound, and he knocked again.

This time, we heard the door being unlatched carefully from the inside and then, as the door slowly opened, we could see the head of a man, eyes blinking as he peered out into the soft moonlight.

As he opened the door a little wider, it was plain to see he hadn't expected company and that he was frightened.

My friend said, "Don't be afraid. Merry Christmas! We've come to bring you presents!"

This was in the era before we had welfare departments and case workers. Obviously, one of the organizations for whom my friend had worked had known that here was a needy family. There were not resources enough to take care of all the needy people, not even most of them. But there was enough for this one family.

We heard a stirring inside and the dim figure of a woman was visible as she struggled to light a kerosene lamp.

Lindsey Nelson was one of the greats in the sportscasting field and remembers a Christmas Eve many years ago and the feeling which never left him.

"Come in," said the fellow in the door. And so we did.

This man and his wife had been huddled beneath an old quilt in the corner of the shack. There was no bed. And they slept in their clothes, she in a long dress and he in his overalls. Now they slipped on their shoes.

"We have some things for you," said my friend as he went to the car and started bringing in the brown grocery bags and the packages. I helped him.

The man and his wife stood absolutely speechless. They stood motionless and still a little cautious as they strained to understand what was happening in this quiet little shack in the far corner of a field.

And then my friend said, "Where are the girls?"

With that the woman went to the far side of the room and pushed open a make-shift door that was already ajar. "Girls," she said softly, "wake up, girls. Wake up. Santa Claus has been here!"

When the woman moved the lamp, now we could see two tiny figures huddled beneath another quilt in a little crib made of two-by-fours and scrap plywood.

Slowly, two curly heads peeped out. They were twin girls about 3 or 4 years old. They had been kept warm by sleeping in their dresses and long stockings. Now they smiled as they climbed out of the crib and stood up.

My friend had lined the small table with groceries, fruit and bread. He had a dress for the woman, a shirt and work slacks for the man. He handed candy and toys to the twins, a doll for each of them. And they squealed with delight.

The man and his wife had now recovered from the shock. They were so pleased and happy. And they had questions. Who sent all these things? And why?

My friend explained they were from the people in town. They were Christmas gifts. The man had explained they had gone to bed totally defeated because they could provide nothing for Christmas.

The curly-haired girls had filled their mouths with candy, and they were tearing into the cardboard boxes that contained the toys. Affectionately, they fondled the dolls.

The woman searched for some way to reciprocate. She looked around the room and it was bare. There was nothing to offer. And she said, "Girls, sing 'Silent Night.'"

And those two tiny girls stood there in that shack, and with the moonlight beaming across their faces, they sang the sweetest version of that Christmas hymn I have ever heard.

They all waved from the door as we drove away, heading back to the town, and out own homes and Christmas. They had given me the most memorable Christmas of my lifetime.

Merry Christmas!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The above was penned by the noted Hall of Fame sportscaster Lindsey Nelson, date and source uncertain. He was one of the giants of his profession and could write a darn good column when the spirit moved him. We present it with our best wishes for the holidays.)

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